



JANUARY 2001

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SNAPSHOT

FOR THE JOINT GENERAL PLAN

The City of Santa Clarita and the County of Los Angeles are initiating a **joint planning effort** to address future growth in the Santa Clarita Valley. For this effort the City and the County will plan together to address the region's growth, infrastructure development, and issues such as transportation, housing, and open space.



y o u are invited to participate in defining the issues of highest importance to the Valley's future. This Santa Clarita Valley "Snapshot" brochure marks the first step in the public outreach/ visioning process being used to create a new **General Plan** — the Plan will document the policies used to govern growth and development throughout the Valley.



t h e public visioning process aims to involve the residents in identifying the common areas of concern for the City and County and seeks to build consensus for a shared vision of the Valley's future.



t h i s Snapshot is intended to help residents focus on the issues that are critical to planning and provides residents with an overview of the Valley, facts about City and County services, demographic descriptions and details about Valley characteristics. Please use the brochure as a preliminary outline of the topics to consider and join us in our effort to develop a common vision for the Santa Clarita Valley.



For more information about the General Plan Update
contact Jason Smisko, Associate Planner,
City of Santa Clarita 661/255-4330.

WHAT WILL THIS
VISIONING PROCESS
IDENTIFY AS THE
PRIORITIES FOR THE
JOINT VALLEYWIDE
GENERAL PLAN?

COMMUNITY IDENTITY & INVOLVEMENT

The Santa Clarita Valley is located 35 miles northwest of Downtown Los Angeles. Together the City and County account for approximately 400 square miles.

One of the objectives of this visioning effort is to identify an appropriate boundary for the Santa Clarita Valley, and consequently the General Plan area. Currently the project area includes both the City and the County.

WHICH COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE GENERAL PLAN PROCESS?

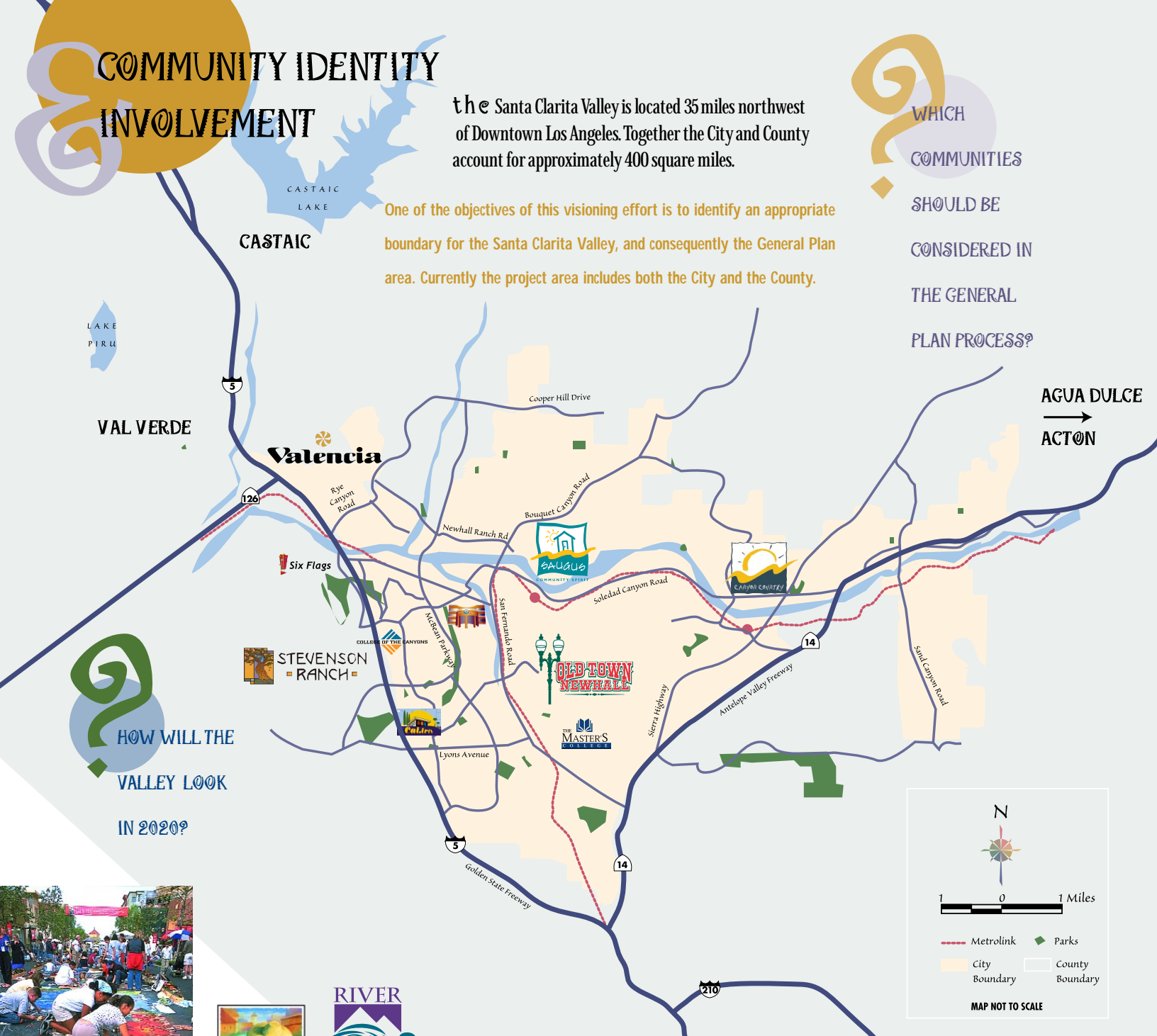
AGUA DULCE
ACTION

HOW WILL THE VALLEY LOOK IN 2020?

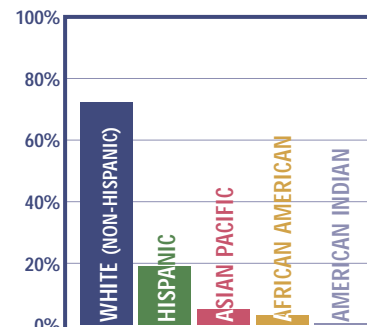


Community events are held throughout the year in various locations around the Valley including Concerts in the Park, Bella Via, Old Town Newhall Street Fair, Stevenson Ranch Family Picnic, Community Tree Lighting and many others.

The Valley is home to numerous communities and neighborhoods, each with a distinct feel and look. Residents enjoy living in the Santa Clarita Valley and share pride in their individual neighborhoods while valuing the sense of community found there. Communities such as Agua Dulce, Canyon Country, Castaic, Newhall, Saugus, Stevenson Ranch, Valencia, and Val Verde are found in the Valley.



POPULATION BY ETHNICITY



The Santa Clarita Valley reflects an increasingly diverse population. Growth forecasts for the region show the Valley population reaching 333,751 by 2010.

HISTORY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society notes that the Valley has had more than its share of historic events: the first documented discovery of gold in California; the oldest existing oil refinery in the world; the first commercial oil field in California; the third longest railroad tunnel in the world at its completion (1876); and the second oldest schoolhouse in Los Angeles County. Now the City and the County desire to extend this rich, cultural history into the future through a comprehensive and encompassing planning effort.

DID YOU KNOW SANTA CLARITA VALLEY HAS A RICH CULTURAL
BACKGROUND DATING BACK TO NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY
AND MISSIONARY AND GOLD RUSH SETTLEMENTS?



Newhall Tunnel,
1910 before the
mountain and
tunnel were
blasted away
to become
Sierra Highway



Newhall Schoolhouse, circa 1900



Downtown Newhall, 1887

SOURCE: SANTA CLARITA VALLEY HISTORY IN PICTURES, SOWHISTORY.COM

NATURAL RESOURCES

The City and the County acknowledge the importance of the Valley's unique topography and rolling hills and seek to protect these resources through hillside management programs.

Increases in population and employment inherently pose a threat to the Valley's air quality. Growth will require careful and thoughtful planning to curtail possible negative impacts.



Within the Valley boundaries, there are more than 100 square miles of Angeles National Forest lands. These areas provide recreational and aesthetic resources for Valley residents as well as visitors. Recreation at Castaic Lake and five other local lakes is popular year round.



The Santa Clara River is the only river in Los Angeles County that remains close to its natural state with vegetated banks instead of concrete channels.

Traditional valley resources such as mining, agriculture, and oil are declining as urban uses expand in the Valley. It is an ever-increasing challenge to balance the continued management of these resources with growth.





INFRASTRUCTURE



city & county Public Works Departments serve the Santa Clarita Valley and coordinate street maintenance, public right-of-way landscaping, and sewer and water service management.

Santa Clarita's drinking water comes from the State Water Project via Castaic Lake Water Agency and from underneath the valley floor. The groundwater supply is renewed when water flows down the Santa Clara River and its tributaries.

the Valley is growing faster than infrastructure can be provided.

The valley generates 246,000 tons of waste annually with one-half of the waste diverted from landfills for recycling. Landfills serving the Valley have a capacity of 5,000 tons per day; at that rate those landfills will be full by 2030.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS?



TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNITY ACCESS



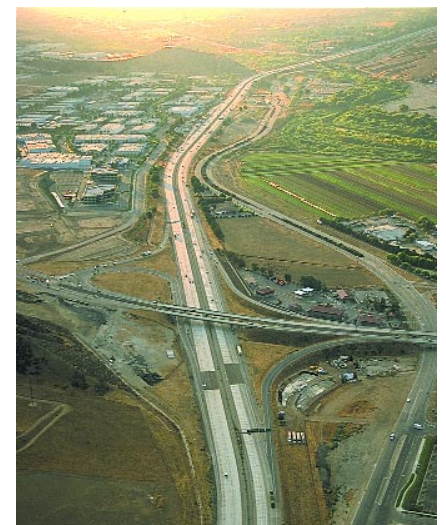
There are over 800 miles of roadways in the Valley, but only three major routes — Interstate 5, the Antelope Valley Freeway 14 and Highway 126 — cross the entire Valley. The natural topography and Santa Clara River are important amenities, yet they restrict the flow of travel across the Valley. One option considered in the past has been to construct new bridges across the river, but this is a costly solution and impacts the environment.

Mass transit is one transportation option capable of alleviating traffic congestion. In 1993 the first Metrolink station opened in the Valley providing daily service (six days a week) to and from the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys and Downtown Los Angeles. Now, the City of Santa Clarita is the only city in the system with three Metrolink stations.

ARE CONVENIENT TRANSIT OPTIONS LOCATED NEAR YOUR HOME?



Building transit-oriented development — higher density housing such as apartments and multiplexes near transit stations — is one option available to the Valley to address concerns about growing traffic congestion.



WILL THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH IN CONSTRUCTION AND POPULATION NEGATIVELY IMPACT TRAFFIC TRAVELING WITHIN, TO, AND FROM THE VALLEY?



HOUSING



housing values in the Valley have increased steadily over the last 10 years. The 1998 median price of a house in the Valley was about \$300,000. Average monthly rents have also increased approaching \$1,000 a month.

Housing construction in the Valley has also increased over the last 10 year period. As of early this year, there are approximately 69,000 units in the Valley.



IF HOUSING VALUES CONTINUE TO INCREASE, WILL YOUNG FAMILIES OR SINGLE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS STILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE VALLEY THEIR HOME?

WHEN YOUR CHILDREN

MOVE FROM

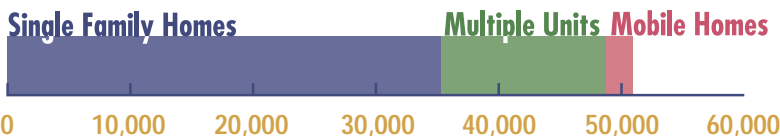
HOME, WILL

THEY BE ABLE TO

AFFORD A HOME

IN THE VALLEY?

NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS IN THE CITY



WILL THE VALLEY BE A PLACE WHERE FAMILIES, SINGLES, SENIORS, AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE AND WORK CLOSE BY?

SAFETY



Statistics point to the safety of the Valley. Violent crimes have declined throughout the Valley, and since 1995 the City of Santa Clarita has continually ranked in the top five safest cities in the USA for a city of 100,000 or more!

Santa Clarita has seen a 28% decrease in crimes since 1995.

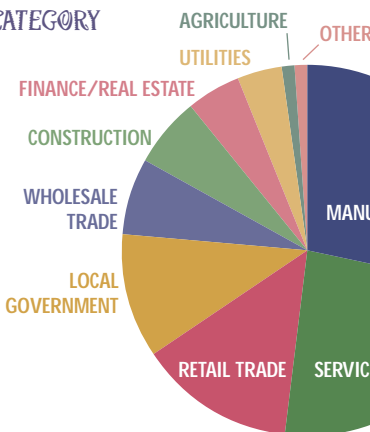


Valencia gateway is the largest master planned center for business, technology, and industry in Los Angeles County encompassing 14 million square feet on 4,500 acres. Manufacturing and services provide significant employment opportunities in the Valley, closely followed by entertainment related and construction industries.

Residents are looking less to shopping and entertainment options outside of the Valley and are increasingly enjoying local retail and dining establishments located in key employment centers. These include Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia Town Center, Mountasia Fun Center, and the Valencia Market Place.

The unemployment rate for the City of Santa Clarita was 2.7% in 1998; this is significantly lower than the State average. City surveys reveal that Santa Clarita residents would prefer to work where they live even if it means taking a 10% cut in pay.

VALLEY EMPLOYMENT BY CATEGORY



The Santa Clarita Educated Communities United in Response to Emergencies Program has been providing free neighborhood emergency preparedness training to thousands of residents for eight years.

Most of City and County agencies are well-prepared to respond to emergencies such as earthquakes and other disasters in the Santa Clarita Valley including the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Sheriff Department, Hazardous Materials Division, and the City's Emergency Preparedness team.



EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

WHERE WILL WE
ACCOMMODATE ALL
THESE STUDENTS?



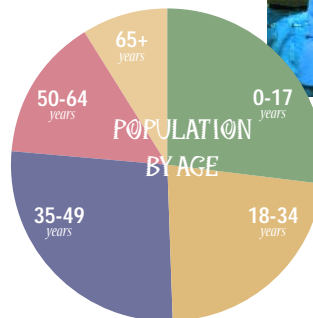
similar to infrastructure, adequate school facilities are also a struggle to provide in step with the pace of development. Although there are approximately 40 public schools within six school districts, the student population is growing faster than school facilities can be developed. Enrollment for the 1999-2000 school year was 38,400. Projections show 2005 enrollment at over 56,000 students in the Valley.

The Valley has a number of civic, homeowner and booster organizations. The Rotary and Lions Clubs, Zonta International, Pride Committee, and the Sheriff Advisory Committee are just a few of those active in the community.

The Valley is also home to three schools of higher education



the Valley has numerous parks, and residents can enjoy sports in private facilities, such as golf, tennis, and bowling, and in public facilities such as pools, and play fields, and organized sports such as soccer and baseball. Recreation programs for children, adults and seniors are available throughout the Valley in addition to those provided by YMCA, AYSO and other local youth sports organizations.



Seniors are an integral part of and a growing percentage of the Valley population.

Services are provided through the Senior Center, Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, and some local parks. The City provides low-cost transportation through Dial-A-Ride and Santa Clarita Transit.



PARKS & RECREATION



parks and recreation opportunities are greatly valued in the Valley. While there are 25 different parkland areas in the Valley, it is recognized that there is a deficiency in available park space based on current standards. The City and County are working cooperatively to meet each community's recreational needs.

Nearly 30 miles of paseos link several City neighborhoods together and provide alternative transportation options as well as recreation opportunities for residents.

santa clarita residents enjoy a wide variety of formal and informal outdoor recreation opportunities. There are numerous riding, walking, and hiking trails throughout the Valley, several of which parallel the Santa Clara River and/or its tributaries.



WHAT'S NEXT?

the following are upcoming events:

- The One Valley, One Vision **web site** will be launched in mid January 2001.
- The **Community Survey** will be distributed and available on-line in late January.
- On January 27, 2001, a **kick off event** will be held at Santa Clarita City Hall for all Valley residents.
- **Public workshops** will take place in various neighborhoods throughout the Valley in late February and early March.

Check your local newspaper and the City and County web sites for project updates at www.santa-clarita.com and planning.co.la.ca.us. You can also sign up to be on our mailing list by calling (661) 355-4330 or logging on to the One Valley, One Vision web site through the links listed above.

Si Usted desea información en español, por favor llame a Mary Navarro al (661) 255-4338.